



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

4301 South Louise Avenue Suite 201
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115
(605) 362-2760 Fax: 362-2768 www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing

CANADIAN-EDUCATED RN/ LPN (ENGLISH SPEAKING) – LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

[SDCL 36-9-29, 30, 31, 32](#) provide authority for South Dakota Board of Nursing to license qualified applicants seeking nurse licensure in South Dakota. By law, to practice nursing in South Dakota, a valid South Dakota license or [Nurse Compact State](#) license must be held. To obtain a South Dakota license, a nurse who has graduated from a nurse education program in a foreign country and has never been licensed as a nurse in the United States or a US territory:

1. Must have completed a government-approved four-year high school course of study or its equivalent.
2. Must be a graduate of a government-approved educational program leading to nurse licensure that meets the South Dakota nursing education requirements that were in place at the time the nurse graduated. Since 1954, South Dakota educational requirements include: medical, surgical, pediatrics, obstetric and psychiatric nursing theory and clinical, as well as concepts in physical, biological, and behavioral sciences, pharmacology, and nutrition.
3. Provide verification of employment directly from the employer(s) as a nurse for a minimum of 140 hours in any twelve month period over the preceding six years, or 480 hours accumulated during the preceding six years, if the nursing education was completed more than six years from the date of application.
4. Complete application and submit required fees (\$100.00 SD Nurse Application; \$200.00 NCLEX® Registration).
5. Achieve a passing score on the NCLEX-RN® Computerized Adaptive Test.
6. Criminal Background Check
 1. Pursuant to SDCL 36-9-97, [ARSD 20:48:03:01:01](#), [ARSD 20:48:05:01](#), [ARSD 20:48:03:01](#), [ARSD 20:48:03:07](#), and [ARSD 20:48:03:08](#) each applicant for initial licensure is required to submit a full set of fingerprints with completed application to obtain a state and federal criminal background check.
 2. If you download an application from the website www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing and submit the completed application to the South Dakota Board of Nursing, fingerprint cards will be mailed to you.
 3. The fingerprint cards you receive from the SDBON **must** be the cards you use for fingerprints, since specific agency data are pre-printed on them.
 4. Contact your local law enforcement agency for fingerprinting.
 5. Send to the SD Board of Nursing office your completed fingerprint cards and a separate check or money order for \$44 payable to: South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).
 6. Your application will not be processed and/or temporary license will **not** be issued until your completed application **and** fingerprint cards are received.
 7. You will **not** receive a permanent license until the fingerprint results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are received by the Board, approximately 1-2 weeks.
 8. Cards will be rejected if bent, folded, tampered with, stained, smeared, or stapled. If rejected, you will be notified to resubmit your cards.

PROCEDURE for a Canadian-educated nurse seeking South Dakota licensure by examination is as follows:

1. Request application forms from South Dakota Board of Nursing for the NCLEX-RN®.
2. Fees and completed forms with current address and phone number must be submitted to SD Board of Nursing.
3. SD Board of Nursing will send results of the examination with the candidate's name to the school from which the candidate graduated, and will report the score to the applicant as *pass* or *fail*. Applicants who fail may retake the examination a maximum of eight times a year, but not more often than once in any 45-day period after filing a new application as provided in [ARSD 20:48:03:01](#), and paying the fee prescribed in Chapter [20:48:06](#).

TEMPORARY PERMITS to practice nursing in South Dakota are issued to first time NCLEX® writers only. An application form may be obtained from SD Board of Nursing. You must be registered with the testing service; your application and fees must be approved by Board staff; and criminal background check fingerprint cards must be received in the Board office before a Temporary Permit will be issued. The Permit is non-renewable, and becomes invalid upon notification of results of the examination or 90 days following the date of its issuance, whichever comes first. Those persons failing the exam must return the Temporary Permit to the Board of Nursing office. The Temporary Permit must be shown to your employer. A new graduate holding a Temporary Permit may practice only under supervision of a licensed RN. The non-refundable Temporary Permit fee is \$25 payable to the South Dakota Board of Nursing.